

friend Larry Williams, started a low power FM radio station. In those heady early days, the station broadcast from the living room of Kevin's house in Acres Homes. Later, as the station established its niche and found its audience, it moved the broadcast signal up the FM dial from 89.1 to 96.1, and moved its base of operations to the corner of West Montgomery and South Victory Streets.

Located in the heart of Acres Homes, FM96.1 DaZone soon became the heartbeat of the community. Led by Kevin and a team of over 30 dedicated volunteers, the station broadcast a wide range of music, public service announcements, live-remote events, and public affairs programming, including exclusive interview shows with local government officials, community activists, economic developers, performing and visual artists, and leaders of faith-based organizations.

From top to bottom, FM96.1 is and has always been a labor of love. It has no employees; no one involved with the station receives a salary; everyone serves in a volunteer capacity. The station operates largely on a barter basis, exchanging, for example, free staff haircuts for live remote broadcasts from the Acres Homes College of Barber Design, or free lunches on Fridays in exchange for "shout outs" to Chi Chi's Soulfood Kitchen. Modest cash donations are made in exchange for other on-air notices or promotions.

FM96.1's mission and programming are targeted directly to the needs of the roughly 40,000 people who live in Acres Homes, an underprivileged and underserved historic part of north Houston. The mission of FM96.1 is to enhance the services, identity, unity and overall quality of life of Acres Homes' residents by providing programming focused directly on their needs and aspirations. It promotes local activities, community events, businesses, churches, and service organizations, offering a microphone to business owners, school principals, ministers, community service providers and politicians who seek to instruct, employ, build or inspire the community.

Perhaps FM96.1's indispensable role in the Acres Homes community is best demonstrated by its response to a series of rapes and murders occurring last year within just a few miles of the station's broadcast location. Anchored by Kevin Ener, the station performed yeoman work in informing the community and participating in a series of weekly Town Hall Meetings at the Acres Homes Multi-Service Center. These meetings were held to inform local residents of the presence of a serial killer in the community, educate area women about personal safety, and inform the community about efforts being taken by a wide range of law enforcement agencies to find the perpetrator.

In addition, under the leadership of Kevin Ener, FM96.1 routinely provided free promotional advertising and live remote broadcasts for such events as Christmas toy drives, school supply drives, little league baseball registrations, basketball camps, Trail Riders, youth ministry conferences, Juneteenth celebrations, park dedications, teen dances, North Houston City College registration, Stay-In-School drives, GED certification drives, disaster-relief commodity collection projects, community health awareness events, and voter registration drives.

The depth and quality of service FM96.1, a creation of the love and vision of Kevin Ener, has delivered to the Acres Homes community

is widely recognized and acknowledged and reflected in the many letters, certificates and testimonials it has received from civic organizations, churches, small business owners, community leaders, and elected officials. It is no exaggeration to say that the large radio stations serving the Houston market would be hard pressed to match the FM96.1's record of direct service to the Acres Homes community and effectiveness in addressing the real-world issues facing Acres Homes' residents.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Ener was preceded in death by his father, Carl, and by his daughter Carolyn. He leaves to cherish his memory a beloved wife, Felisha, and nine devoted children: Brittany, Brandan, William, Kevin, Lois, Dexter, Chase, Jessica, and Nyah. Mourning his loss are his mother Deborah, his grandmother Daisy; brothers Robert, James, Kerry, and Carl; sisters Cora, Carlisle, and Tiffany; and a host of relatives, friends, and admirers.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me say that although many a tear is falling in Acres Homes tonight, joy cometh in the morning. Because that is when the thousands of people whose lives were touched and uplifted by the incandescent, effervescent, and irrepressible Kevin Ener will remember that when he was in their midst, they were in the company of a hero. He will never be forgotten. Farewell, dear prince. May angels carry you to your final rest.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNA KURYLO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Joanna Kurylo of Queens, NY. I wish to recognize Ms. Kurylo for being awarded the 2007 New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Youth Award. Joanna is a student at Christ the King Regional High School where she has achieved a high level of excellence and has already established herself as a community leader. While participating in a number of extra-curricular school activities, Joanna was honored for her notable fundraising efforts which brought aid to the Darfur region and helped advance the battle against leprosy. This award is granted to five students throughout New York State each year.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurylo best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

CONSUMER OVERDRAFT PROTECTION FAIR PRACTICES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill that extends the protections of the Truth in Lending Act to overdraft protection programs and services provided by depository institutions. The bill also requires customer consent before a depository institution may initiate overdraft protection services and fees, and enhances the

information made available to consumers relating to overdraft protection services and fees. In addition, the bill prohibits systematic manipulation in the posting of checks and other debits to a depository account for the purposes of generating overdraft protection fees, among other things.

HEALTHCARE AND THE FY 08 BUDGET

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my strong concern and disappointment over the budget that the President sent to us this week. This budget—like those that The President has presented every year for the past 7 years—clearly shows that his priorities are not in sync with that of the American people. This budget takes money that could help millions of the most vulnerable Americans—the poor, the chronically ill, the elderly, people with disabilities and children and uses it instead to give a few wealthy Americans tax breaks they don't need and many don't want.

While many have called this budget fiscally irresponsible, which is an appropriate description, Madam Speaker, in my opinion this budget goes far beyond fiscal irresponsibility! It lacks compassion and humanity and it is unjust. The American people expect better, Madam Speaker, and we must answer their call.

As others of my colleagues have conveyed, this budget does not just cut, but slashes Medicare and Medicaid, two programs that literally sustain the lives of millions of Americans who have serious health needs. And simply cannot afford coverage.

And, in this budget, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is so under-funded that the 9 million children who are uninsured today will likely remain uninsured tomorrow.

The President's budget also takes aim at people living with HIV/AIDS.

The CARE Act and its ADAP program are drastically under-funded, and will leave far too many people with HIV/AIDS without reliable access to the most advanced medications, the most appropriate health care and treatments, and the support services that they will need to manage their conditions, protect their health and care for their families.

Additionally, under this budget, the CARE Act will find itself expected to serve more people with HIV infection, but without adequate funding to do so.

Madam Speaker, as both a physician and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, more than just being disappointed, this budget makes me angry. As though the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, and the inadequate funding for the CARE Act and SCHIP were not bad enough, after what has been hundreds of years of preventable premature deaths in people of color, I am particularly disturbed that the President's budget completely ignores and does nothing to end the travesty and injustice of racial and ethnic health disparities; nor is their funding in Health and Human Services for Katrina recovery or rebuilding the healthcare infrastructure in the Gulf region.

Further, this budget cuts or under-funds all of the programs—from aging programs, social service grants, and nursing programs, to SAMHSA, newborn screening programs, maternal and child health programs, state and local capacity building and training for doctors, nurses and other health providers—that are not only integral, but essential to the elimination of health disparities. Further, the cuts in that budget to Veterans programs will also impact their services and undermine their health.

And, as though to add insult to injury, even though NIH gets a slight increase in this budget, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH instead gets a cut!

Madam Speaker, the nation's leading economists often talk about "good" debt as investment debt that creates or improves value and "bad" debt, which creates no value. It's time that we champion a budget that creates good debt!

By making an increased investment in the health and health care of all Americans who have unmet health and health care needs, we would be making an investment that will, in fact, create value by bolstering the health and well being of not only individuals and communities, but of the workforce, our defense and ultimately our nation and our nation's security.

Unfortunately, this budget does little more than continue to create the "bad" debt that has accumulated during the last 6 years and from which most Americans have not benefited at all. In fact, despite the very high levels of spending in those years, most find themselves worse off economically educationally and with respect to their health.

Now that the prior bad debt has been created and used for tax cuts and squandered on a war that yet leaves our soldiers under-protected and under-equipped, the poor and people of color who have been further marginalized are told they will have to continue to suffer because there is no money and now at our expense, the budget must be balanced.

This is patently unfair and unjust. This budget does not put access to healthcare within the reach of the millions of hard working, low income Americans and their families. All it does is continue to ensure the huge tax breaks for million and billionaires. The president's budget continues the misguided health priorities of the Republican Party, wealthy corporations and their conservative base.

We have a great challenge before us in this budget with the unprecedented deficit and the huge debt this administration has put us in to countries like China.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, far too many of the people we represent have waited patiently for far too long and in that time hundreds of thousand have died because of the unhealthy communities they live in and because they could not get the healthcare they needed.

Despite the fire fiscal circumstances left for us to deal with, and for us to correct, we cannot delay healthcare justice for them, for justice further delayed is justice further denied.

We must reject the president's budget and replace it with a new one that responds to the needs of the people who are depending on us and is in keeping with the ideals this nation was founded on.

The time to do more is now; this is our moment to answer the call of millions of Americans who have the desire for a healthier today

and a healthier tomorrow for themselves and their families. This is the time to redefine our Country through realigning its priorities.

This budget is our opportunity to set a new direction for our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "SECRET SANTA," MR. LARRY STEWART

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Larry Stewart, more affectionately known as "Secret Santa." He passed away January 12 of this year of complications from cancer of the esophagus. For 27 years during the Christmas season, he anonymously gave away more than 1.3 million dollars in cash to those that needed it most. Although he was a resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri in my Fifth Congressional district and was known as "Secret Santa" in the Kansas City area, he distributed his "gifts" from east coast to west coast and many areas of the country in between.

He went to New York during the holiday season of 2001. He distributed \$25,000 in \$100 bills to the people of New York City who were still feeling the devastation of September 11. In 2002, he distributed cash "gifts" in the Virginia area which was reeling from sniper attacks. In 2003, he visited the San Diego area which was being damaged by fires. And in 2004, he went to Florida where Larry gave nearly \$30,000 to those who had suffered damage from the hurricane. As can be seen, this man's generosity touched many of my colleagues' Congressional Districts. He also traveled to the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Mississippi, the state of his birth.

Following the gifts in New York City, he appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show where he wore a Santa Claus costume to protect his identity. Only his family, and a handful of local law enforcement and fire officials knew his real identity, hence the name "Secret Santa." Even though I was the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri for 8 years during his gift giving escapades, I did not know who he was, and there was quite a bit of talk of who really was Secret Santa. As I said before, his "gifts" were of cash to the less fortunate. They were gifts from his heart and were never taken as a tax deduction. Much of the money he gave away was to people he saw on the street, at pool halls, pawn shops, and Laundromats—he went where the people were.

This last holiday season, Larry came forward to reveal his real identity. For 26 years he was known only as "Secret Santa," but he received word that the tabloids were about to announce who he really was. His final holiday season, he was able to give away \$100,000 in memory of his late friend, the legendary "Buck" O'Neil, who had passed away in October 2006. This amount was increased by an additional \$75,000 from "elves" who had come forward to carry on his program.

Larry was a member of the Crime Commission Board, the Foundation Board for the St. Luke's Hospital, the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E., and the Eastern Jackson County Youth Court.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his adult children, sons Joe, John, and Mark Stewart, as well as daughter Kimberly Stewart, and his many relatives and friends. He was a shining example of humanity and kindness. He gave of himself and asked nothing in return. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ROSS AND JUDY PARADIS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a husband and wife who have been tireless advocates for many of the disadvantaged in rural northern Maine. Ross and Judy Paradis are from Frenchville, a small town along the St. Lawrence River overlooking our neighbor to the north, Canada.

Through a range of professional positions, Ross and Judy Paradis have worked day and night to help make the lives of the residents of the St. John Valley better and more prosperous.

They were both teachers, then state representatives in the Maine Legislature. Judy was also a state senator. Even today, with no direct ties to public office, the Paradis have championed the causes of their neighbors. They continue to work as advocates on education, housing, health and human services, and many other issues that affect the day-to-day lives of those around them. They champion Maine's children, Maine's rural communities and Maine's way of life. They have also helped to preserve the stories and culture of Maine's Acadian heritage.

Ross and Judy have always stepped up when faced with a challenge. As a result, they have gained the respect of their colleagues from all over the state and beyond. Their concern has always been the needs of their constituents in the Saint John Valley and the people of Maine.

The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful advocates and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BRITT "MAX" MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER'S TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 72, which honors Dr. Britt "Max" Mayfield upon his retirement from his position as the Director of the National Hurricane Center. This resolution recognizes his leadership at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Tropical Prediction Center.